

THE EXCRETION OF ACID IN MENTAL AND NERVOUS DISEASES.

At a recent meeting of the "Congress for Medicine" in Berlin, Hr. Lebusches, of Jena, gave an address on some clinical investigations concerning the excretion of acid in mental and nervous diseases.

The observations were made from two to three hours after food. In twelve cases of melancholia the condition was found to be normal in fifty per cent. In five cases of mania there was an increase of acid. In chronic paranoia the proportions were normal.

Fifty cases of paralysis were examined. In but two cases were the proportions normal, two showed no hydrochloric acid, five hyperacidity, and nine had too little. In most the quantity oscillated between absence and high proportions. As disease advanced, the acid reaction diminished and disappeared. Apoplectic and epileptic cases also showed diminution of acid. In chronic alcoholism the proportion was normal. In chronic morphinism, cases where morphia was withheld only examined, the quantity was diminished. The treatment of psychoses with opium had no effect on the secretion. In neurasthenia, quantity generally increased. Patients who were very much excited showed slight increase.

ASSOCIATION OF GERMAN ALIENISTS.

The following interesting programme is announced for the meeting of this body at Weimar, September 18 and 19, 1891: "Prophylaxis of Tuberculosis in Lunatic Asylums," "Responsibility and Criminality," "Drunkenness in Relation to Responsibility," "The Present Condition of the Aphasia Question," "Care of Epileptics" and "The Employment of Hypnosis in Lunatic Asylums."

THE GOOD MEN DO LIVES AFTER THEM.

Thirty-four years ago (1857) Moses Sheppard, of Baltimore, left \$560,000 in trust to establish an institution for the care and treatment of members of the Society of Friends who might become insane. This is the second largest bequest which has ever been given to found a private hospital for the insane.

As the interest only was to be used for the purchase of ground, erection of buildings and maintenance of the asylum, the work has of necessity been delayed. Out of the income the trustees have expended about \$880,000 in the purchase of three hundred and thirty-seven acres of land near Baltimore, and in the erection of three fireproof buildings, each three hundred and sixty-five feet long, from seventy-five to two hundred feet deep and from two to four stories high, fitted with the best modern improvements as to ventilation, heating, water supply, etc.

Despite these outlays, the original endowment has been increased and the interest of \$600,000 in well-invested securities will be used for the support of the asylum. The plan of the philanthropic founder, that this should be an experimental establishment, with all provisions for the most careful observation and study of individual cases will be rigidly adhered to. The Sheppard Asylum is to be congratulated upon the appointment of Dr. E. S. Brush, late of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane (Kirkbride's), to the position of superintendent. Dr. Brush is an alumnus of the Buffalo Medical College, graduating in 1874.

As a specialist he is well known to the profession, and by training and experience is exceptionally well fitted for the work which he has to do. From the very nature of the institution, he will have abundant opportunity for the further development of knowledge in mental diseases and improved methods of treatment. Undoubtedly much work can and will be done that will have a widely extended and beneficial influence. The asylum will probably be ready for the reception of patients in the fall.

THE GENERAL HOSPITAL OF PHILADELPHIA AND ACUTE INSANITY.

The wards of the Philadelphia general hospital assigned for the reception of cases of insanity and alcoholism, and which have been used simply for the detention of such persons, pending arrangement for their transfer to the insane department, or to some other hospital for the insane, were a year since placed under the care of the chief resident physician, with the idea of securing immediate medical treatment the moment of their reception.

From the annual report of the chief resident physician, (Dr. D. E. Hughes) to the Department of Charities and Corrections, we glean the following: "The good results of